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Reagan Will Seel Accelerated Aid For El Salvador

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The Reagan administration, unwilling to wait while Congress debates its new aid plan for Central America, will ask a Senate committee today for \$93 million in accelerated military assistance for El Salvador and may request another \$17 million for covert aid to rebel forces in Nicaragua, according to congressional sources.

The highly controversial funding request for El Salvador will come in the form of an amendment to an emergency funding bill giving food aid to drought-stricken African nations that is before the Senate Appropriations Committee, the congressional sources said.

The parallel request for more aid to Nicaraguan rebels is under "active consideration" at the White House, the sources said, but they added that reaction from bypassed Senate Intelligence Committee leaders, including Chairman Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) and ranking minority member, Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), has been so negative that the idea may be reconsidered.

News of the new effort to move the Latin aid requests through Congress came as, separately, members of a House subcommittee balked at providing a proposed \$8.7 million for Army and Air Force "contingency facilities" in Honduras, which would be part of a planned overall 50 percent increase in Pentagon construction worldwide.

Documents obtained by The Washington Post describe the facilities as a barracks and hangar for a U.S. Army aviation unit and cement storage igloos for large quantities of ammunition, bombs and rockets.

In a remark that appeared to sum up the mood of many members, Rep. William V. (Bill) Alexander Jr. (D-Ark.) of the House Appropriations subcommittee told Pentagon officials that no funds will be forthcoming for Honduras until the administration submits a much-delayed report outlining construction plans for that country.

"We in the Congress and the American people are literally in the dark about what our government is doing in Central America," he said.

Both proposals are also certain to anger House Foreign Affairs Committee Democrats who failed again yesterday to reach agreement on the overall Central America aid plan.

Determined to produce a foreign aid bill this year, Chairman Dante B. Fascell (D-Fla.) has sought to soften recent conditions put on the aid by a subcommittee "from very, very, very tough down to just tough," a committee aide said. The committee is expected to act today.

Administration officials have been warning for weeks that the \$45 million appropriated for 1984 military aid to El Salvador is running out quickly.

With Salvadoran presidential elections due to begin March 25, the officials said that they expect a major leftist guerrilla offensive and fear that Salvadoran armed forces, wor-

ried about diminishing supplies of weapons and ammunition, will be unwilling to respond adequately.

The administration has asked for \$178 million in additional 1984 funds for El Salvador and \$132.5 million for 1985, but no bill is expected to emerge until June or July.

A White House official, explaining the effort to seek emergency funding, said, "We would hate to lose El Salvador for the want of a nail."

The administration is similarly running out of funds for Nicaraguan rebels. After long, bitter debate, Congress appropriated \$24 million last year for covert 1984 aid to the "contras," knowing that the aid would run out in May or June and explicitly demanding approval of additional funds by the intelligence committees.

CIA Director William J. Casey and Secretary of State George P. Shultz are to appear today before the Senate Intelligence Committee to discuss additional money. But news of the tentative plan to evade the committee changed the agenda.

"To say Goldwater was angry is putting it very mildly, and Moyni-

han was even worse," a source close to the committee said.

An emergency administration proposal for the Nicaraguans may come during a closed Appropriations Committee session and would seek to attach the \$17 million addition to a bill providing money to states to help pay low-income users' utility bills. That measure and one aiding Africa are considered hard to oppose.

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